

CLAIMS

1. An improved method of transmitting at least audio information from production systems to one or more among a predetermined group of tail end users distal from the production systems, the improved method comprising the steps of
 - a. receiving at least a first audio signal on a first production system and at least a second audio signal on a second production system;
 - b. digitally encoding the first and second audio signals with a lossy compression algorithm to yield respective first and second lossy encoded files of lossy audio information;
 - c. predetermining a first group of tail end user apparatus for use of the first lossy encoded file and a second group of tail end user apparatus for use of the second lossy encoded file;
 - d. transmitting the lossy encoded files from the first and second production systems to a hub for automatic selective forwarding of the first and second lossy encoded files by the hub to the first and second groups of tail end user apparatus respectively; and
 - e. receiving, decoding, and playback broadcasting of the first and second lossy encoded files respectively on the first and second groups of tail end user apparatus, said decoding using a decoding algorithm for decoding of the lossy encoded file encoded with the lossy encoding algorithm.
2. The improved method of claim 1 wherein: (1) the transmission step (d) takes place without

further lossy compression of the lossy audio information in the lossy encoded file; (2) the transmission step (d) includes transmission of a live encoded audio data stream by automatic multiplexing and transmitting the audio data stream with the lossy encoded file; and (3) the receiving step (e) includes automatically demultiplexing of the received multiplexed audio data stream and lossy encoded file, and live decoding and use of the audio data stream by the tail end user apparatus.

3. The improved method of claim 1 also including in step (e): playing the decoded file and automatically cross-fading the playback of the decoded file with the playback of a second audio file on the tail end user apparatus.

4. The improved method of claim 2 also including in step (e): playing the decoded file and automatically cross-fading the playback of the decoded file with the playback of a second audio file on the tail end user apparatus.

5. The improved method of claim 1 wherein transmitting step (d) includes transmitting a command in connection with the lossy encoded file, and receiving step (e) includes automatic activation and use of the lossy encoded file according to the command.

6. The improved method of claim 2 wherein transmitting step (d) includes transmitting a command in connection with the lossy encoded file, and receiving step (e) includes automatic

activation and use of the lossy encoded file according to the command.

7. The improved method of claim 3 wherein transmitting step (d) includes transmitting a command in connection with the lossy encoded file, and receiving step (e) includes automatic activation and use of the lossy encoded file according to the command.

8. The improved method of claim 4 wherein transmitting step (d) includes transmitting contract closure information in connection with the lossy encoded file, and receiving step (e) includes automatic activation of demand for use of the lossy encoded file according to the instructions embodied in the contact closure information.

9. The improved method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes pre-determination of whether to transmit through an extraterrestrial satellite or other link and then transmitting through the determined link.

10. The improved method of claim 2 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes pre-determination of whether to transmit through an extraterrestrial satellite or other link and then transmitting through the determined link.

11. The improved method of claim 3 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes pre-determination

of whether to transmit through an extraterrestrial satellite or other link and then transmitting through the determined link.

12. The improved method of claim 4 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes pre-determination of whether to transmit through an extraterrestrial satellite or other link and then transmitting through the determined link.

13. The improved method of claim 5 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes pre-determination of whether to transmit through an extraterrestrial satellite or other link and then transmitting through the determined link.

14. The improved method of claim 6 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes pre-determination of whether to transmit through an extraterrestrial satellite or other link and then transmitting through the determined link.

15. The improved method of claim 7 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes pre-determination of whether to transmit through an extraterrestrial satellite or other link and then transmitting through the determined link.

16. The improved method of claim 8 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes pre-determination

of whether to transmit through an extraterrestrial satellite or other link and then transmitting through the determined link.

17. The improved method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes predetermined transmission through an extraterrestrial satellite.

18. The improved method of claim 2 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes predetermined transmission through an extraterrestrial satellite.

19. The improved method of claim 5 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes predetermined transmission through an extraterrestrial satellite.

20. The improved method of claim 8 wherein the transmitting step (d) includes predetermined transmission through an extraterrestrial satellite.